

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GOLDEN BEETLE FROM COSTA RICA.

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AMONG a small lot of Costa Rican Coleoptera recently presented to the United States National Museum by Mr. John Keith, of San Jose, Costa Rica, through Capt. G. P. Scriven, U. S. A., there were three specimens of the magnificent golden and silvery beetles from that locality. One of these I have identified as *Plusiotis resplendens* of Boucard, a true *Plusiotis*; the second one as *P. chrysargyrea* of Sallé, a species intermediate between *Plusiotis* and *Pelidnota* as regards the mandibles, the only structural character separating these two genera. The third specimen, which is described below, strictly belongs to *Pelidnota*, since it has the mandibles as distinctly bidentate as in the majority of species of this genus, but it would evidently be wrong to separate it from association with the species of *Plusiotis* inhabiting the same region, which it resembles so much in form and coloration. Its nearest ally seems to be the above-mentioned *Plusiotis chrysargyrea*, which it approaches in form, although having a still broader thorax. The species is readily distinguished from any form of the group hitherto described, both in coloration and elytral sculpture.

PLUSIOTIS KEITHI, new species.

Oblong, parallel, somewhat convex, above splendidly golden colored. Clypeus, front and a broad side margin of thorax, pinkish brown. A large purple spot at inner margin of eyes, and a line of same color on the thorax, separating the golden color of the disk from that of the side margin. Head rather coarsely punctured, with finer punctures intermixed. Clypeus rugose, almost semicircular, with strongly reflexed margin. Mandibles distinctly bidentate. Thorax at base nearly as broad as the elytra, sparsely and finely punctured at the middle, more densely at the sides. Elytra without striae; sparsely covered with large, shallow, somewhat rugose punctures. Apical callus prominent. Sutural striae impressed toward the apex. The finely rugose pygidium, the

whole under-surface and the legs, of a pinkish brown with silvery reflections; all sutures shining cupreous. A line on inner margin of tibiæ and all the tarsi, rich purplish blue. Mesosternal process very long, conical.

Size.—Length, 30 mm.; width, 16 mm.

Type.—A single specimen in the National Museum collection.

Boucard, who has monographed the genus *Plusiotis*, has also studied these insects in nature during his travels in Central America. In regard to the habits of the golden and silvery species, he states that they feed in concealment during the day on the leaves of trees, especially young oaks. Just before sunset they take wing for a short time. Their period of life is very brief, and their habitat is extremely restricted. How difficult it is for collectors to obtain them may be better understood by citing his own words, narrating one of his visits to these regions. He says: "I was in Costa Rica in the proper season and at the exact locality where these insects are found, but was not able to get more than three specimens, although I offered a high price for them to the natives and did myself all that possibly could be done. Everyone in the country knew what I meant, when I asked for golden and silvery beetles, but they did not procure any."